



**Trails Commission Meeting
MINUTES — January 25, 2006
Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center**

TRAILS COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Commissioners Bechmann, McDonald, Eades, Scott and Youth Advocate, Pfaff.

ABSENT AND EXCUSED: Smith, Chair; Barnfather, Vice-Chair; Commissioner Chenault

CITY STAFF: Linda Gorremans, Park Planner and Sharon Sato, Recording Secretary.

AUDIENCE: 0

Note: Bold/italic text denotes Staff and Commissioner follow-up resulting from this meeting.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Trails Commissioner McDonald called to order the regular meeting of the Redmond Trails Commission at 7:06 p.m. at the Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center (ORSCC), Room 201.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion for approval of November 30, 2005 RTC minutes with the following corrections:

Eades - correction to page 2, paragraph 6, "Eades added that there had been approved signage...", should read, "Eades added that there have been improved signage on trails, specifically Bridal Crest Trail, and inquired if this was part of the new Wayfinding project."

Motion to approve minutes as corrected by: Commissioner Eades

Second by: Commissioner Bechmann

Motion carried: Unanimous 4-0

III. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE/HANDOUTS

- A. Geocaching - a method of orienteering using a GPS tracking instrument is becoming a popular activity in many Redmond's parks, specifically the Watershed and Farrell McWhirter Parks. This function is not programmed or regulated by the City. Staff will continue to monitor this activity. Use of GPS

mapping may be useful in identifying and locating existing City and informal trails.

B. Commission By-Laws and Information

Gorremans noted that the handout is for information purposes only, describing the purpose and mission, composition and term of office.

C. Trails Applicant Handout

This 2-page handout is given to applicants at the time of development application to City. This handout specifically informs applicants about the City trail system and zoning code that may require dedication, easement or construction of trails in conjunction with development.

Eades suggested to avoid confusion the title should read, "Developer Applicant" handout.

IV. DISCUSSION AND REPORTS

A. Neighborhood Connections

(a) Future Prioritized Trail Connections

Smith, McDonald and Bechmann met to discuss and formulate in writing the Commission's goal to organize top ten priorities for neighborhood connectors:

- Establish guidelines for prioritization
- What purpose does the trail or trail connection serve
- Establish a method of organization
- What action to take
- What action should the Commission take
- Preparation and presentation to Council
- Guidelines, structure, organize
- Track and follow-up on action plan on each project

Bechmann summarized the sub-committee's plan as a way to direct the way the Commission acts and defines a multi-year plan to change the function and role of the Trails Commission.

Discussion took place on wording and clarification of definition of trail connection. Scott added that the definition of each trail connection project may have varied wording dependant upon the situation. Like terms may not be identical.

Eades suggested it might be better clarified to read, "Connects two or more areas not served by a legal non-motorized trail". Eades also noted that key factors on the projects list were; geographic balance, neighborhood feedback, maintenance, signage and markings, as discussed with the Mayor and Council.

McDonald stated the reasoning for this is to go through each project, write down what should happen, how it should happen and a plan to initiate action on that plan.

McDonald briefly went through the draft handout - Guidelines for Selection as a Connector. This draft is a base for discussion and changes will be made as the Commission reviews and further discussion takes place. McDonald asked Commission members to review the document and e-mail suggestions to Smith. Further discussions will take place at next months' meeting.

Bechmann suggested that projects should be tracked, not necessarily by staff, to follow projects and keep Council updated in the form of a yearly progress report. He noted that by tracking projects in this manner, the Commission and staff would be able to see how projects are progressing, what is working and what is not.

Scott inquired what would be the steps after presentation to the Council. McDonald responded that the Commission would present the top ten projects list to the Mayor and Council; at this point the Council would look at the action plans, and may instruct staff on which project will move forward and which need to be replaced with other projects.

Scott stated he was unsure of what dollar amounts were available for trail projects. Gorremans suggested the budget process should be a topic for next months' Commission meeting.

Eades noted that projects are added without knowing the dollar amounts or funding method. The initial step is to get projects on the list and work to get them done. Projects need to be on the list to apply for grant applications.

McDonald reiterated his request for Commissioner to e-mail comments, changes or concerns to Smith and, fellow Commissioners. Further discussion will take place at next months' meeting.

The Commission agreed that their guidelines would be separate from the Bike Pedestrian Committee's, however, similar strategies would be necessary to reach a compromised goal.

(b) Recent Connections Accomplished - Council Memo

Gorremans drafted up a brief cover memo to Council, regarding trail connection projects that have been completed. They are grouped by neighborhoods, numbered 1-13 and with a corresponding map. Additionally there is a brief description of the projects and type of trail (backbone; connector,; multi-use, soft surface, et. al). This memo is in response to Council member McCormick's request.

Eades suggested that trails that are built be so designated on the map for graphic purposes. He also noted that there are an extensive number of trails around Einstein Elementary School which are not shown on the map (Abbey Road). Gorremans responded that trails on private property with no public access agreement (e.g. design amenity of a development) are not city maintained and are not shown on the map as available for general public use.

Gorremans added that "social trails" were included in the 1997 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (PRO Plan), however they have been removed since they often cross private property, generally do not have public access agreements and are not within the city limits. There are also some informal trails (neighborhood built) over sewer lines, stormwater, under utilities, over utilities and growth easement protection areas.

This list includes completed trail projects, with some exceptions (Nicholls Trail Avondale Road Trail). Per agreement by the Commission, Gorremans will finalize the memo and send to Council.

B. Downtown SWOT Background

Gorremans reported that the Park Board is in the process of analyzing different neighborhoods - Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT), looking primarily at parks. The Commission will be looking at trails in the same neighborhoods, pertaining to SWOT. Gorremans handed out Downtown Draft #1, which is a worksheet for discussion purposes.

Eades commented that under "Strengths" the SR520 Trail is the primary trail into the Overlake area and should be so noted, as well as Bellevue and Grass Lawn Neighborhood.

Bechmann noted that the SR520 Trail "dead ends" at West Lake Sammamish Parkway, but needs to be extended to the Sammamish River Trail (Leary Way), and should be added to "Opportunities" - which may eventually extend to Union Hill Road. A proposal has been made to extend the trail to Town Center and Redmond Way.

McDonald stated that the Westpark Building, along West Lake Sammamish Parkway, had been acquired by new owners whose plans include landscaping along the west side of the building. McDonald sees an opportunity for the City to partner with the new owners to improve the trail along the river next to the building/development. Gorremans stated she does not consider the west side of the river to be fully completed and that future plans include moving equestrian traffic to the west side of the river. She added that in areas where the City's Habitat Enhancement Program has taken place parts of the trail have been widened, planted, evasive plants removed, and improved.

Bechmann noted that there is no easy, convenient or safe place where equestrians can cross over to the west side trail, they can access via the Puget Power Bridge and Leary Way, but no intermediate crossing.

McDonald requested information on railbanking at the next Commission meeting.

McDonald also requested to have the Heron Rookery Trail project added to the SWOT. This project is part of the Transportation Master Plan. An update on the status of the project will be given at the next meeting.

C. Commissioners' Term Expiration

Bechmann has indicated his interest in serving another term and has contacted the Mayor's office. Chenault's term will expire in March, she cannot serve another term due to Commission by-laws, however, she can continue to serve until another member is sworn in.

Advertising will be done to seek a new member. Bechmann, Eades and Smith will serve on the interview panel.

D. Equestrian Trail Mapping Project

Gorremans reported that the KC Executive Horse Council (KCEHC) is in the process of mapping all equestrian trails in King County using GPS. With encouragement from King County staff the Horse Council is in the process of accumulating GPS information from city agencies. KCEHC held a meeting in Bellevue to discuss their plans for this area in December, 2005. Barnfather, Chenault, Kris Colt (former Commissioner), and Gorremans attended the meeting.

Eades stated that the equestrian group could be significantly beneficial in assisting in keeping projects on track and moving along.

Gorremans reported that the "missing link" has been purchased by Puget Sound Energy (PSE). PSE is in the process of working on the language between KC and PSE as to how KC will be utilizing the trail. The acquisition of the parcel owned by out of state property owner has been acquired. There are no funds for development at this time.

Bechmann inquired if King County is willing to allocate funds for development. He added that the City should be involved in this process due to ownership of the Watershed Preserve and trail connections.

E. Trail Project Reports

(1) Evans Creek Trail

- Final punchlist early week of 1/30
- All kick rails, plants, picnic table, benches, signage, "doggie" bag stations installed

(2) Trail @ Bear Creek Park - Safeway Trail

- Go to bid late February
 - WSDOT has commented. Consultant is addressing items
 - Reid Middleton is finalizing specs and drawings
 - Concern of losing IAC grant
- (3) Bear Creek Trail @ Avondale
- North of Safeway Trail
 - Acquisition project
 - Scott Evans, owner of large parcel, .8 acres, will sell to City for \$390,000
 - May need Phase II environmental assessment on 30' section, soil sampling due to former gas station site - the soil will be tested for soil contamination - north of Union Hill Road up to Championship Motors
- (4) East Lake Sammamish Trail
- Ribbon cutting ceremony will be held the first part of April for the trail within the City of Sammamish
 - New gravel will replace existing gravel surface on trail within Redmond and Issaquah - finer gravel for easier maintenance
 - Installed gates and fencing
 - Asphalt added where road crossings meet
 - Delay due to weather
 - Trails Commission will be notified and invited to the ribbon cutting
 - Master Plan is for a paved trail
 - Moving forward with the EIS

F. Coming Attractions

- (1) Select soft surface trail construction project - \$25,000 needs to go for the development of a soft surface trail segment section. For \$25,000 survey or brushing out can be done, volunteers might install surfacing. Eades suggested the segment of a private trail coming from a neighborhood to the PSE Trail Corridor - gravel link. Ideas at next month meeting.
- (2) National Trails Day - June 3, 2006
- Staff recommended Evans Creek Trail
 - Not enough publicity last year - not enough volunteers
 - Need "hands on" project
 - Project that takes 4 hours to complete - 1 day - limited scope
 - Get MOC involved early - worthwhile project or time

G. Other

Next month update on Watershed William Pipeline Project.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chair McDonald at 8:50 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Recording Secretary, Sharon Sato

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| <p>Audiotapes of regular Trails Commission meetings are available at the Parks and Recreation Office at (425) 556-2311.</p> |
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**THE NEXT REDMOND TRAILS COMMISSION MEETING:
Wednesday, February 22, 2006
Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center
7:00 p.m.**